



THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



Successful 2nd NJ Italian American Congress

On October 29th the Commission hosted the 2nd New Jersey Italian American Congress at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. The program featured presentations from Commissioner Richard Billotti and Advisory Council Chairpersons Gargione and Dr. Poiani, on the Commission's progress in meeting the objectives set by the 1st Congress last October. The presentations were punctuated by UNICO speaker Ralph Contini, who read the Governor's Proclamation on Italian Heritage



Above: Commissioner Richard Billotti



Right: 2nd Italian American Congress Members and Attendees



CAC Chair Dr. Eileen Poiani



Director Carabelli & Ralph Contini



Assemb DiGaetano & Director Marinzoli

Month and former OSIA President Angelo Bianchi, who touched on the changes in perceptions of Italian Americans today. The keynote speaker Assemblyman Paul DiGaetano highlighted the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans and delighted the attendees with a delivery in Italian and English.

The half-day event brought together leaders from the Italian American community who separated into planning groups to discuss political and business networking, promoting the Italian language and Curriculum Project, promoting a positive image of Italian Americans and coordinating efforts of Italian American organizations in NJ.

Two new documentary film trailers were shown and twenty-five exhibition tables promoted Italian American organizations. The Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra performed during the lunch. Chairman Larry Paragano commented, "This is a key event for Italian leaders as they work together for the Italian Heritage."



Assemb. DiGaetano & Com. Paragano



OSIA Speaker Angelo Bianchi



CAC Chair Frank Gargione



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Chairman's Message

As the many celebrations and events for the month of October come to a close, the Italian American community of New Jersey has an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in the past year in bringing our community closer together in achieving the

NJ Risorgimento's objectives of promoting our Italian Heritage and coordinating our efforts.

The Commission's 2nd New Jersey Congress of Italian American Organizations was a fitting conclusion to an October filled with Italian celebrations, new Italian American films, academic conferences and the endorsement of the Italian Heritage Curriculum Project from NJ's teachers and students. Governor Codey's Proclamation of Italian Heritage Month punctuated our successes.



Commission Chairman Larry Paragano

As the Commission begins a new year, we wish our professional staff all of the best in the New Year as they move towards new career opportunities. We gratefully acknowledge the services of Roger Marinzoli, our outgoing Executive Director, and our two Associate Directors, Anthony Carabelli and Gina Pezzicola – *Buona Fortuna!*

In sharing your Christmas and New Year holidays with your families, please remember to honor your Italian Heritage.

Commission Upcoming Events

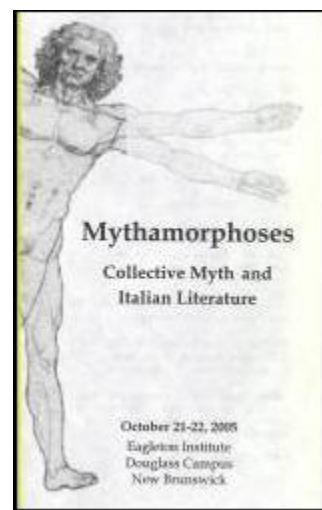
- **November-December 2005**
Phase II Curriculum Pilot
Teacher Training for School Districts Invited for Phase II
- **November 9, 2005**
"Roman Coin Exhibition"
Rutgers highlights its exhibit of "Roman Coins of the Republic" with a lecture from Dr. Metcalfe from Yale University as part of Italian Hours, sponsored by the Commission
- **December 1, 2005**
"Sicilian Musical Evening"
Zimmerli Museum at Rutgers hosts musician M. Musolino for Italian Hours, sponsored by the Commission
- **Spring 2006**
ITANJ Italian Heritage Day
Student Conference co-sponsored by Commission

Rutgers Conference on Italian Literature

On October 21st and 22nd the Rutgers University Italian Graduate Student Society organized an academic conference on Italian literature in New Brunswick. This biennial conference, entitled "Mythamorphoses: Collective Myth in Italian Literature", was a two-day long series of panels, seminars and lectures highlighted recent academic research on various topics of Italian literature. The featured speakers included Dr. Millicent Marcus of Yale University and Dr. Massimo Forte of The Johns Hopkins University. The NJ Italian Commission served as a sponsor and participated

in the opening ceremonies of the proceedings. This conference is unique as it serves as a forum for graduate students to publish papers and explore their topics of interest, prior to earning their doctoral degrees. The discussions and papers will be published in 2006 as part of the graduate student journal "La Fusta".

Mythamorphoses Conference Attendees



2005 Italian Graduate Student Conference
Rutgers University, New Brunswick



Governor Signing Ceremony

Governor Richard J. Codey recently held a signing ceremony at the State House where he declared the month of October as "Italian Heritage and Culture Month". Having issued the Proclamation on September 28th, Governor Codey presented the Proclamation to Ralph A. Contini as its founding sponsor and to the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. This annual proclamation, initiated by Mr. Contini in 2002, is issued in recognition of the many contributions made and on behalf of the more than 2 million Italian-Americans in the Garden State. On hand for the ceremony were



Italian Heritage Month Signing Ceremony

Ralph Contini, Roger Marinzoli, Deputy Chief of Staff Joseph Fiordaliso, Hon. Vice Consul Gilda Rorro Baldassari and Governor Codey.

Deputy Chief of Staff Joseph Fiordaliso, Honorary Vice Consul Gilda Rorro Baldassari of the Republic of Italy and NJ Italian Commission Executive Director Roger Marinzoli and Associate Director Anthony Carabelli.

Several Italian American organizations were instrumental in sponsoring this proclamation, including UNICO National, The New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, The Coccia Institute and The Tri-State Italian-American Congress. The Commission expresses its gratitude on behalf of the NJ Italian community to the Governor.

Farewell to Commission Staffers



Anthony Carabelli
Associate Director



Gina Pezzicola
Assistant Director

in Jan 2006. He will be pursuing opportunities in government affairs.

During their two-year tenure, they were responsible for the professional reorganization of the Commission and made significant contributions to the development of programs, procedures, strategy, marketing and operations. Much of the Commission's growth has been attributable to their efforts.

The Commission thanks them for their many contributions and wishes them well in their new endeavors.

CAVOUR'S COLUMN



By A. Roger Marinzoli

Executive Director
of the New Jersey
Italian and Italian
American Heritage
Commission

This Column is named after Cavour, founder of "Il Risorgimento", the 1847 Italian Newspaper, which promoted Italian unity, heritage and identity.

December represents a time of reflection as we come together with family and friends to remember our Italian traditions during the holiday season. Over the two years that I have served the Commission as its Executive Director, I look back proudly at the achievements of New Jersey's Italian American community. Whether I reflect on the cooperation of this State's Italian American organizations in celebrating Italian Liberation Day in April, or on their coming together for the NJ Congress of Italian American Organizations in October, I see growing unity and collaboration.

I also am pleased to see that the younger generations of Italian Americans are increasingly anxious to retain their Italian Heritage. Growing numbers of students are studying Italian in the school system and in the universities, and all will soon be exposed to the history of the Italian Heritage through the Commission's state curriculum project. As I leave my position as Executive Director, I can only urge the Commission to continue the momentum – *Sempre Avanti!* I wish all of you a blessed and prosperous Christmas and New Year. *Buon Natale e Buon Capodanno!*

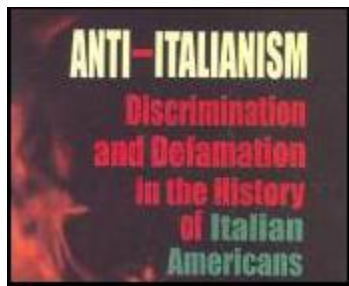
Staffing News

The Commission would like to express its gratitude for the service of two exemplary staff members. Ms. Gina Pezzicola joined the Commission in July 2003 and served as Assistant Director until October 2005. She is now pursuing educational and professional opportunities in Paris, France. Mr. Anthony Carabelli was appointed as Associate Director of the Commission in Aug 2004 and will complete his service



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Anti-Italianism Film Debut



October 12th Film Debut

The Alberto Institute of Seton Hall University hosted the first public screening of the short film "*Anti-Italianism: Discrimination and Defamation in the History of Italian Americans*" directed and produced by Dr. William Connell and Paul Budline for the Alberto Italian Studies Institute. This film is a new 30-minute documentary filmed in Dec 2004 at a national conference held at

Seton Hall University, co-sponsored by the Commission and other organizations.

The film, featuring many prominent Italian Americans, presents incisive discussions of a history of discrimination that included lynching and racial bigotry, as well as the social and psychological effects of the present-day stereotyping in the media. The film is a major step forward in creating greater awareness and understanding of how Italians have been perceived in the U.S. historically and of the obstacles they have overcome. Contact the Commission to order copies of the DVD.

The New Jersey Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, located at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is the operational body of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission for program implementation and administration. The Commission, located in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Education, was created pursuant to the enactment of P.L. 2001, Chapter 343 C.18A4-42 and signed into law on in January 2002. The Institute, a 501.c.3. entity with statewide jurisdiction, is charged with providing services to the public at large, as well as public, non-profit and other public service institutions in all twenty-one counties in New Jersey.

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The Honorable Richard J. Codey

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